



November 2013

### OFSTED REPORT - NOVEMBER 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find enclosed the school's Ofsted report following the inspection on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Overall, the school has been judged as 'requires improvement.' Ofsted have used this term to replace the 'satisfactory' grade. However, you will notice from reading the report that there are many strengths and positive aspects, such as:

- the good judgement in the behaviour and safety of pupils
- the teaching in Early Years and Foundation Stage
- the teaching of phonics
- children making good progress in their reading and maths SAT's from their starting points at end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- disabled pupils and those with special educational needs making similar progress to other pupils because of "targeted support and the nurturing environment in school"
- the "well-targeted work by teaching assistants with individuals and small groups"
- pupils' work is marked "regularly and conscientiously"
- the "significant contribution" that teaching and the curriculum makes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- leaders understanding clearly what needs to be done to improve the school's overall performance and the impact this is having
- the high expectations and ambition of governors for the school

The school has made significant strides in improving the education of our children in recent years. For example, we have improved our 'Ofsted grades' since 2010 (see below), despite the challenges faced with staffing. There have also been many changes to the Ofsted framework in recent years (last changed in September 2013 having been changed previously in January 2012), making it even more difficult to achieve 'good' or 'outstanding.' Inspectors and headteachers readily acknowledge that it is now much harder to achieve these higher grades than in recent years.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Ofsted Dec 2010</b>	<b>Ofsted Nov 2013</b>
Overall Effectiveness	4	3
Achievement	4	3
Quality of Teaching	4	3
Behaviour & Safety	3	2
Leadership & Management	3	3

(Ofsted grades: 1 - outstanding; 2 - good; 3 - satisfactory/ requires improvement; 4 - inadequate)

However, we recognise that there are still improvements to be made. The report acknowledges the "turbulent staffing over recent years" and the impact this has had on the quality of teaching. This has also affected the amount of pupils making more than expected progress, though the report acknowledges that most pupils make expected

progress. There will always be movement of staff both to and from school. However, with new staff now in place from September, we are now confident that further improvements to the quality of teaching will be made.

Small pupil numbers in some year groups have also had a significant impact on achievement. In year 6 last year there were only 12 pupils, each accounting for over 8%. This compares to each child accounting for around 3% or less in many other schools, where there may be 30 pupils or more in Year 6. As we are compared to other schools nationally, one pupil achieving or not achieving a certain level can result in the school being either significantly above or below the national average.

The report also states that boys make more progress than girls at end of Key Stage 1 and 2. However, at end of Key Stage 1, there were nearly twice as many boys in the cohort, each accounting for a much smaller percentage than girls and at the end of KS2 there were only 6 boys and 6 girls. In some other year groups, girls made greater progress than boys. It is virtually impossible for all boys and girls to make the same amount of progress as all children are different and learn at different rates.

Although we were disappointed not to achieve 'good' for Leadership and Management, the "turbulent staffing" in recent years mentioned in the report has also contributed to this, as all staff are categorised as leaders and managers.

At St Patrick's we are determined to address all the key issues in the report and our aim is to be judged good or better at the next inspection. However, we can only achieve this with the full support of all those within the school community, particularly parents and carers. The key issue of improving attendance across the school cannot be achieved solely by the school. We need the support of all parents and carers in ensuring that their child is in school regularly (attendance of 95% or above) and is on time. If we can increase our overall attendance and punctuality then this will lead to an improvement in achievement. The more often children are in school, the greater the chance they have of making more progress with their learning.

I would like to thank all staff and governors and children for all their hard work over recent months and years. In addition, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their much-valued and appreciated support. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all to secure the very best education for all our children.

Kind regards

Mr G Kelly  
Headteacher